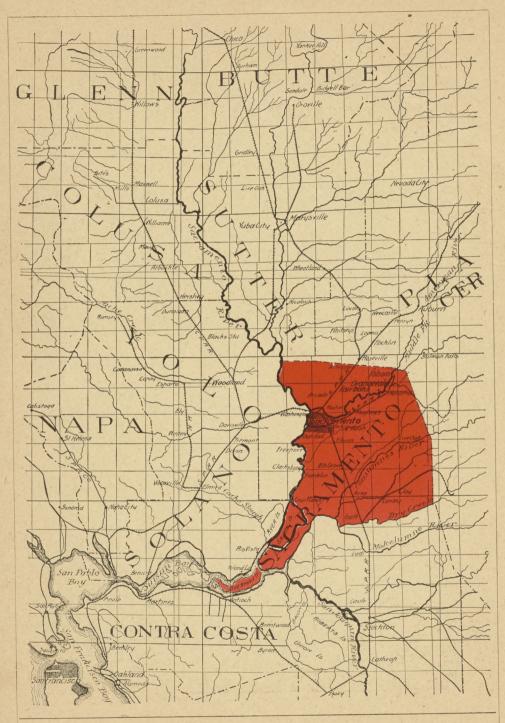
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No. 1.

# CALIFORNIA'S SACRAMENTO



THE STORY OF THE ORANGE.



SACRAMENTO COUNTY AND ITS TRIBUTARY COUNTRY

## THE STORY OF THE ORANGE

CITRUS CULTURE IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Prepared by

H. A. FRENCH, General Manager CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SACRAMENTO, . CALIFORNIA

HE PURPOSE of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce in issuing this series of pamphlets is to show in detail what can be done with various products upon the lands of Sacramento County, and the immediate vicinity, and to illustrate the wonderful fertility of Sacramento Valley soil. Beginning with the subject of citrus fruits, a pamphlet will be issued each month for twelve months treating of some one product, or class of products, as its main topic.

Somewhat over a decade of citrus fruit culture for commercial purposes in Sacramento County and Northern California, has demonstrated beyond question that the home of the orange, so far as California is concerned, both commercially and in quality, is the Sacramento Valley. Almost from the first settlement of California, oranges have been grown in the northern section of the State, but for only about fifteen years have they been grown to any extent for market. Even within that time the people of the northern part of the State engaged in this business have been willing to take the profit and leave to other sections the credit. As late as the present day it is scarcely known outside the district actually growing the fruit, that the first oranges in the market come from the northern and not the southern part of the State, and that in quality the fruit of the former section has points of excellence not equalled by that of the latter.

The range of products in the fertile section drained by the great Sacramento River, is so wide that it has not occurred to cultivators to boast of any particular fruit of their labor, and the growing of deciduous or stone fruit has been so enormous, and the Eastern demand has required so much attention, that there has been little time to give to the cultivation of citrus fruit, the principal and much-lauded product of the southern counties of

the State. Recently, however, a good deal of attention has been paid to citrus fruit growing in the Northern California section, with results that have surprised the entire State.

The great commercial advantage of the Northern California orange comes from the fact that it is the first in the market, antedating the southern article from a month to six weeks, and thereby securesthevery cream of the price. It is a safer product forthegrower than that of



YOUNG ORCHARD AT FAIR OAKS.

the south, for the reason that the entire crop is shipped before the first of January, and therefore escapes the danger of frost during the more severe



GRAPES PLANTED BETWEEN ROWS OF YOUNG ORCHARD a million little trees were killed.

There is good scientific reason for the early maturity of the Sacramento Valley orange. Citrus fruit thrives in sections where the average annual

months of the winter. In Northern California lands devoted to orange culture, however, a frozen orange is unknown, and the fruit remains: safely on the tree throughoutthe winter. Great damage is frequently done by frost in some of the southern counties, and it is stated that lastyearnearly

temperature is about sixty degrees. This is the average in Italy, and is the average in the orange-growing section of both Northern and Scuthern California. In the northern section of the State, however, the temperature is a little warmer in the summer and a little cooler in the winter than in the southern, the hot summer months in the former bringing the fruit to an earlier maturity. The Sacramento County fruit gets into the eastern market early in November and does not compete with the southern fruit till near Christmas time. It also supplies Los Angeles and other southern cities with early fruit.

Another important point in the cultivation of citrus fruit in Sacramento County is that it requires less irrigation, and the irrigation can be done at less cost than in the south. In Sacramento the average annual rainfall for fifty years has been 19.41 inches, while at Riverside, the heart of the Southern California orange belt, the average for the past ten years has



SACRAMENTO VALLEY ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

been but 10.01 inches. It is also an important consideration to orange growers that the Northern California orange has no smut and requires no brushing before being packed for market, and, even more important, that scale will not live in the northern foothill section, and there is no danger of loss of trees from this source.

The extent of territory in Northern California available for orange culture is greater than in any other portion of the State. Reference to the topographical map of the State, printed opposite the last page of this book, shows an interesting condition in this regard. In the southern portion of the map, along the sea coast, will be seen a half dozen little valleys in which all the marvelous development which has made Los Angeles and its surrounding country the wonder of the world, has taken place. Enterprise and persistence have made this southern country, once a desert, a

veritable paradise. With practically a single product of the soil, and by liberally advertising a climate that in California does not depend upon latitude and is the sole property of no one portion of the State, and flowers that grow as profusely in dooryards 500 miles to the north, the people of the south have doubled their population in a short ten years.

North of this section will be seen the great central basin of California, drained by the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Kern rivers, and containing millions of acres of the most fertile land known in the world. The northern half of this great basin is the valley of the Sacramento, in which every product known to any portion of this country can be grown, many of them as nowhere else. It has a



MORE ORANGE BLOSSOMS.



BLOOD ORANGE TREE AT FAIR OAKS.

thousand fertile acres to one of the southland, its climate is equal, its rainfall never fails, its flowers bloom the year round, and many of its lands can be bought for a mere song, when their great productiveness is considered. All along its foothills, and nearly to its northern limit, is orange land in abundance, free from killing frost, and capable of producing the finest fruit in the world.

In Sacramento County two thriving communities, Orangevale and Fair Oaks, have been built up on the colony plan, in which orange culture is a principal industry. Along the streets of Sacramento there are many yards which have their bearing orange trees as a decoration. Within two miles of the State Capitol at Sacramento are



GROUP OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY COUNTRY HOMES.

George Straith, Fair Oaks. William Calder, Orangevale. W. R. Gore, Fair Oaks. E. H. Buffum, M. D., Fair Oaks.

orange groves vielding handsome profit. As to the quality of the fruit grown in Northern California, there can be no question. At the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco, in 1893, when orange growing for commerce in the northern part of the State was in its swadling clothes, Mr. J. Parker Whitney was awarded a gold cup for navel oranges grown in Placer County, just north of Sacramento, winning in competition on ten points, including thickness of skin, firmness of pulp, specific gravity, size and flavor.

At the Atlanta Exposition, Northern California orange growers, represented by Oroville, Auburn, Orangevale, Lindsey, Lemon



DRIVE IN FAIR OAKS COLONY.



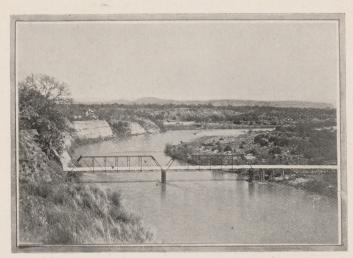
RAVINE AT FAIR OAKS.

Cove and Porterville, won twenty-four medals on citrus fruits, including sixteen gold medals, four silver medals and four bronze medals. The fruits embraced oranges, lemons, grape fruit and limes. Mr. W. J. Prettyman, of Porterville, received a gold medal on Mexican limes. At the same exposition Southern California growers received twenty awards, including twelve gold medals, six silver medals and two bronze medals.

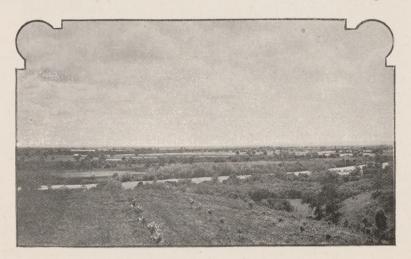
At the Buffalo Exposition Mr. Judge May, of Auburn, Placer County, near Sacramento, upon a display of six jars of Washington navel oranges, received a gold medal, and the highest award, for the best fruit of that variety at the Exposition.

Fair Oaks and Orangevale, two colonies where orange-growing has been fully and successfully demonstrated in Sacramento County upon a large scale, are examples of rural communities which compare with any in the country. Fair Oaks is one of the most beautiful spots in all America.

Situated upon the American River, some fourteen miles from the city of Sacramento, with direct rail communication with that city, it offers one of the most charming locations for a country residence in the entire State. The famous Fair Oaks bluffs. although smaller, compare in appearance and beauty with the Palisades of the



Hudson. The fair oaks bluffs and bridge across the american river. country is rolling, beautiful drives and picturesque glens and ravines abound, and avenues bordered by palms and orange groves, leading to handsome residences, add to an attractiveness that is ideal. The place has



YOUNG ORANGE ORCHARD ON BANKS OF AMERICAN RIVER.

become a favorite with Chicago people, and a number of wealthy men of that city have built fine homes there, either for temporary or permanent residence. Orangevale is the older colony, is situated but a few miles from Fair Oaks, and is scarcely less attractive from a picturesque standpoint. In Orangevale there are some 500 acres planted in oranges and other citrus fruit, and in Fair Oaks the acreage approximates 700 acres. The proportion in bearing is larger in the older colony, but the younger orchards are rapidly coming to maturity in both, and the acreage is constantly increasing. No finer looking groves exist in the State than in those two communities, and land either improved or not, can be had in either of them at reasonable figures.

Shipments of citrus fruit from Northern California have shown rapid increase since first undertaken. The shipment in 1893 was four carloads. In 1896 it was increased to eighty-one carloads, in 1897 to 286 carloads in 1898 to 589 carloads, in 1899 to 910 carloads, in 1900 to 1,800 carloads, and in 1901 to 2,400 carloads. The present year will also show a heavy increase, and groves now planted insure a shipment within five years of

over 5,000 carloads.



OVERLOOKING AMERICAN RIVER FROM FAIR OAKS BLUFFS.

Good orange land can be purchased in the Sacramento Valley, with water for irrigation available, as low as \$25.00 an acre, and from that figure up to \$150.00 an acre.

Here are figures showing what capital a man who is prepared to do his own work, may safely regard as sufficient to establish himself as an orange grower in Sacramento County:

Ten acres average land	500.00	Cow Six dozen chickens Barn	\$30.00 30.00 50.00
Pump	15.00	Horse	50.00
Galvanized tank, 3,000 gallons	50.00	For contingencies, odds and ends	50.00
Frame for setting tank			
Windmill	32.50	Total\$2	,232.50
11000	000.00		

For the man who desires to employ a caretaker, or have all or part of his work done by hired help, the following figures are given by Mr J. Parker Whitney, one of the most successful orange growers in the State, relative to the cost of bringing an orchard into bearing:

Per acre.	Per acre.
Plowing both ways, subsoiling and Fencing	10.00
harrowing\$10.00 Water for irrigating	
Digging holes, Whitney method of Labor for irrigating and cultivating	g 5.00
planting. 60.00	
Trees, 120 at 60c	.\$161.50

This is the most expensive method of planting, but Mr. Whitney claims the results justify the outlay. It requires fully four years to bring an orange grove into bearing. After the first year Mr. Whitney gives the cost as follows:

Cultivation Water Labor of irrigation	4.50	£19
Total	\$14.50	

This statement makes no allowance for fertilizing, although Mr. Whitney states that he would fertilize every other year after the first year.

Capt. E. L. Hawk, of Sacramento, also an experienced and successful cultivator of oranges both at Orangevale, in Sacramento County, and in Placer County just north, gives the following statement of the cost of planting an orange orchard and carrying it for five years:

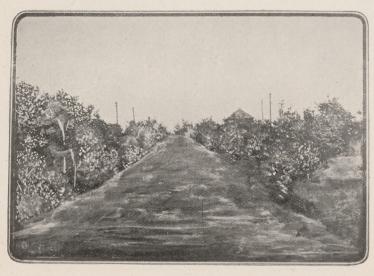


SACRAMENTO VALLEY GRAPE FRUIT TREE.

FIRST YEAR.	Per acre.
Plowing twice and subsoiling	. \$ 5.00
Harrowing and pulverizing	
Staking holes to plant	1.00
Digging holes, 108 at 25c	. 27.00
Trees, 108 at 60c	64.80
Planting trees	5.00
Cultivation after planting, 8 times	
Water	. 5.00
Labor and irrigation	. 2.50
	-
Total cost for first year	\$115.30

#### SECOND VEAR.

SECOND YEAR.	
	Per acre.
Pruning.	. \$1.00
Plowing twice and cultivating six times	. 7.00
Water and handling same	. 7.50
Fertilizing	. 5.00
Incidentals, mainly for replanting	. 5.00
incidentals, mainly for replanting	. 5.00
Total cost second year	. \$25.50
THIRD YEAR.	
	Per acre.
Pruning.	. \$1.00
Plowing twice and cultivating six times	. 7.00
Water and handling same	. 7.50
Fertilizing	. 5.00
G .	
Total cost third year	\$20.50
- our cost saint y carrier	Ψ=0.00
FOURTH YEAR.	
	Per acre.
Pruning	. \$1.50
Plowing twice and cultivating six times	7.00
Water and handling same	. 7.50
Fertilizing	
Total cost fourth year	\$23.50
Total cost fourth year	. #20.00
FIFTH YEAR.	
	Per acre.
Pruning	. \$2.00
Plowing twice and cultivating six times	
Water and handling same	7.50
Fertilizing	. 10.00
T CI CITIZING	. 10.00
Total cost of fifth year	#26 50
Total cost of fifth year	\$20.50
T-4-1 + +1 1 - C C	#011 20
Total cost at the end of five years	\$211.30



SPENCER ORANGE GROVE, WITHIN TWO MILES OF SACRAMENTO CITY.



PACKING HOUSE AT ORANGEVALE.

Capt. Hawk states that to the above figures would have to be added the cost of the land and improving the same, ready for cultivating. This cost he approximates at \$50 an acre for the land, \$15 for clearing and \$7.50 for fencing, a total of \$72.50. This would make the total expenditure up to the time when the grove would begin to make a

good return, \$283.80 an acre.

A properly cultivated orange tract in the Sacramento Valley is worth, in ten years from planting, not less than \$1,000 an acre, and will pay more than 10 per cent on that investment.

Actual experience has shown that a ten-acre tract in Sacramento County, planted in oranges, will support a family in an exceedingly com-

fortable manner. In the figures given above much of the cost of labor can be saved where members of the family live upon the place and do their own work.

Below is a statement of returns and expenditures of tract No. 213, Orangevale, Sacramento County, owned by Mr. George M. Mott, of Sacramento, for the year 1901. These returns are from



INTERIOR OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY PACKING HOUSE.

a first year crop and are obtained from only three acres of the ten-acre tract, the balance of the tract having been budded from seedlings to navels and not being in bearing. The expense account covers the entire tract. Mr. Mott employs a man to care for the tract, his business not permitting him to give it his personal attention. To the profit given below can be added fully 50 per cent. by the man who does his own work.

RECEIPTS.		
474 boxes Seedlings, gross	\$664.73 573.92 132.16	<b>\$1,370.81</b>
EXPENSES.		#J1,070.01
Care of tract, plowing, cultivating, etc	\$160.00 60.00 164.40 16.15 9.00 67.44 298.51 46.76 5.00 4.80	
Telephone, telegraph, etc		\$832.06
Net profit		\$538.75



IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT ORANGEVALE, CALDER ORANGE GROVE.

There is nothing unusual in the returns given above. Other tracts have done better, although Mr. Mott's is a good average and shows well what can reasonably be expected. Mr. Mott's tract was taken for the reason that the statement of receipts and expenditures has been methodically kept.

William Calder, of Orangevale, off his first five acres of navels, last year, netted \$743.00. This was from not more than 400 bearing trees. The tract is nine years old. He has received as high as three boxes of navels off a single tree, and has sold them in Sacramento for \$3.50 a box for the Thanksgiving trade. He begins to pick about the 3d or 4th of November. The first car from Orangevale for New York was started last year November 8th.

The Kellogg tract of ten acres last year produced 3,000 boxes of citrus

fruit, about one-quarter being navels.

Mr. J. Parker Whitney, in Placer County, just north of Sacramento County, made a net profit last year upon eighty acres of \$176 an acre, an income of over 17 per cent. upon a valuation of \$1,000 an acre.



BANANA TREE IN FAIR OAKS ORANGE GROVE.

F. C. Crosby, in Placer County, got 250 boxes off a single acre of eight-year old orange trees last year, selling them for \$2.75 a box. Four acres of five year old trees yielded 450 boxes, which were sold at the same price.

These are facts and figures that can all be verified. To sum up, the

Sacramento County orange

Is six weeks earlier in the market than the southern article, and gets the top price.

Takes first prizes for quality in competition.

Is never frozen.

Requires no brushing.

Its trees not susceptible to scale.

Is grown where rain fall never fails.

Land can be bought at reasonable figures. And its cultivation yields splendid profit.

As has been stated before, the products of Sacramento County are confined to no one product. Pamphlets will be issued upon each of the

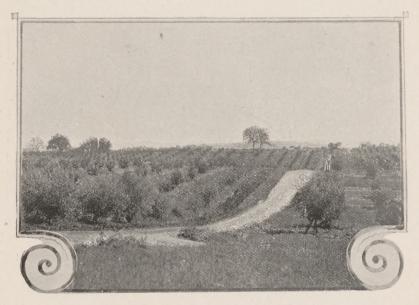
products, of which a brief statement regarding their cultivation in Sacramento county is given below:

#### DECIDUOUS FRUITS.

There is no place in this country where deciduous fruits are grown in such profusion and in such variety as in Sacramento County and its immediate vicinity. Seventy-five per cent. of all the deciduous fruit of the State is grown within a radius of fifty miles of Sacramento City, and orchards pay a handsome profit.

#### OLIVES.

At Fair Oaks and Orangevale olive culture stands a close second to orange culture, and olive lands in Sacramento County are among the most valuable in the State. The finest olives and the finest olive oil are produced in this section.



ROAD AMONG FAIR OAKS ORCHARDS.

#### GRAPES.

Both wine and table grapes are a profitable product in Sacramento County. The Natoma Vineyard, the second largest in the world, is in Sacramento County, within a few miles of Sacramento City. The famous Flame Tokay district, producing the highest priced table grapes in the country is in Sacramento County. The market for both classes of grapes is steady and sure.

#### STRAWBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, ETC.

No other section of the country ships such quantities of strawberries as Sacramento County. Off a single acre in Florin last year \$800.00 net

profit was made. The first crop in Florin this year required 1,660,000 one pound boxes. In Fair Oaks a single acre planted in berries of various kinds netted \$800.00.

#### DAIRY PRODUCTS

Sacramento County offers splendid opportunities for investment in dairy stock and dairy products. Sacramento is itself a large consumer, and San Francisco, with 350,000 people and a constantly growing population, is in close touch. There is abundance of alfalfa and grazing land to be had at low cost.

#### HOPS.

The most prolific hop growing section of the world is within two miles of the State Capitol at Sacramento. Hops from Sacramento County are exported, and the present year the demand has far exceeded the supply.



PICKING ORANGES IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

#### ASPARAGUS.

The greatest asparagus canning and shipping district in the world is in Sacramento County and adjoining. Asparagus canning originated in Sacramento County, and today the canned product sells in Germany, the home of the asparagus, against the native article. There are six asparagus canning factories in the State—three in Sacramento County, two just across the line in San Joaquin, and one in Santa Clara.

#### ALFALFA AND HAY.

Alfalfa lands in Sacramento County grow as high as five crops in a single year, cutting over a ton to the acre for each crop. Hay always finds a ready market at good prices.



BUTLER ORANGE ORCHARD IN PENRYN.

#### POULTRY.

Poultry farms in Sacramento County have proved an exceedingly profitable investment. The market is broad and growing.

#### BEANS, CORN, POTATOES, Etc.

All kinds of garden produce thrive in Sacramento County. Potatoes upon bottom river lands yield a wonderful profit. Beans are one of the largest products of the county.

#### ALMONDS, WALNUTS, Etc.

Sacramento County furnishes some of the best land in the State for growing almonds and walnuts, and both are grown with profit.

Any special information desired upon any subject relative to Sacramento County will be gladly furnished upon application to the Manager of the Chamber of Commerce at Sacramento. Details will be arranged for parties desiring to come to Sacramento County.



This Pamphlet is Issued by the

## Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Sacramento. California

Which will furnish Reliable Information, free, to all Applicants

Hddress

General Manager, Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento, Cal.

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